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NO. 40.

THE OHIO UNION.

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BY J. S. BROWN.

Office at Ashland, Ohio, at the residence of J. S. Brown.

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Select Poetry.



WOODS IN WINTER.

BY HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

When winters winds are piercing chill,
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,
With solemn tread I tread the hill,
That overhangs the lonely vale.

Over the bare upland, and away
Through the long reach of desert woods,
The unobscured emblem of the day,
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,
The summer vine in beauty clings,
And summer winds the stillness break,
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns mute springs
Pour out the river's gradual tide,
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,
When birds sang out their mellow lay,
And winds were soft, and woods were green,
And the song ceased not with the day.

But still wild music is abroad,
Pale, desert woods, within your crowd,
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill air and wintry winds! my ear
Has grown familiar with your song;
I hear it in the opening year,
I listen, and it cheers me long.

Miscellaneous.

(From Dickens' Household Words.)
THE GUN SLAVES OF WALLACHIA.

All travelers who have journeyed from Zentiza on the Danube to Bucharest, agree in praising the country they are obliged to traverse in the most sombre colors. Once out of sight of the lines of trees that border the Danube, you enter upon an interminable dismal plain, with a level horizon that surrounds you like a circle, of which you are ever in the center. There are no objects to mark your progress by their gradual disappearance; there is nothing ahead to encourage you; no mountains of blue rising higher and higher, becoming substantial as you advance, break up their long line into peaks and valleys, bristling with crags or clothed in forest. If you would know that you were in motion, you must look upon the ground beneath your feet and see the pebbles and plants pass slowly backward as your wagon moves slowly on.

As is the case in many savage tribes, the women are either extremely ugly or extremely handsome. Most of the Ziganas are beautiful up to the age of twenty; but after that time, suddenly shrink and shrivel, change color, bend, and lose the lightheartedness of their step, as if an enchantment had changed them from youth, admired and wooed, to dishonored old age. The dress of these women is peculiar, consisting generally of nothing but a light tunic or bodice, made of sheepskin, and scarcely reaching to the knees. It leaves their legs, their arms, and their necks bare. Over their heads the most conspicuous thing is a white veil, and some few indulge in leather sandals. As ornaments they wear earrings of brass filigree, necklaces of beads strung upon a slender string, and a variety of metal bracelets.

The children go naked up to the age of ten or twelve, and whole swarms of girls and boys may sometimes be seen rolling about together in the dust or mud in the summer, in the water or snow in the winter. As you pass by, a dozen heads of matted hair and a dozen pair of sharp eyes are raised toward you, and you are greeted with a mocking shout, which alone tells you that the hideous things are your fellow-creatures.

In fine weather the Ziganas are very independent being. He sleeps in the open air, in the forests, in the fields, in the streets of the towns—anywhere, in fact, where he can find a place to lay his head. However, it is their custom, for the summer season, to erect little sheds of canvas, of straw, or of mud; and whilst in winter they stretch deep holes in the earth, which they roof with reeds and turf. Their furniture is surprisingly simple, consisting of an old kettle, a few two-pronged forks, and perhaps a pair of gipsies, a poniard, and gourd to hold brandy, or arak—to the use of which this race is particularly addicted. When they have stowed these articles in their hole, or under a shed, they call the place their home, and go back to it every night. They squat upon heaps of filth and begin smoking their pipes, while the women sit before them the supper which has been smoked in the before-mentioned old kettle.

Upon three ducks, or a fire of wood brought in by the children mixed with a kind of peat. Sometimes a piece of turned meat, which all Christian cooks have rejected in the bulgarian shops, or a portion of some animal that has come to an untimely death, and has been distributed by a generous boyard, is added to the porridge of beans or maize on which the Ziganas generally support their strength. They use no plates or spoons, but dip their hardened fingers into the steaming kelle, and bring up a ball of porridge or a fragment of meat, which they eat by throwing it from one palm to the other until they are satisfied. In the morning they venture to eat the refuse of the night, and the women and children eat after the men, who, as soon as they have wiped their hands in their hair, take again to their pipes, and—if they can afford it—to drinking. They make themselves merry for an hour or two, and fall asleep to their huts, or stretch out by the embers of their fires. Nothing can be more abominably filthy than the habits of this degraded tribe. They are often obliged to abandon their villages on account of the dreadful state to which they have been brought by their carelessness. This abandonment

costs them nothing in feeling or in money; they are essentially wanderers. When the air becomes too pestiferous to breathe, they shoulder their working utensils and their furniture, and remove a mile or two away. If it be summer, they set up their sheds again in a few hours; if it be winter, and the frost has not yet come on, they form subterranean dwellings in the course of half a night.

Little is really known of the relations of the Ziganas among themselves. Marriage can only take place within the limits of the tribe, and generally within the limits of the property of one master, whose permission, also, is required before the ceremony can take place. There is no ceremony of betrothal, no intervention of match-makers or friends; the youth goes to the father of the girl he has chosen, and, after some attempt at politeness—an offering of a pipe, or praising the size of the old gentleman's beard—comes straight to the point, and proposes himself as a son-in-law. Few questions are asked, few conditions made. Unless there be some important objections, the young lover receives permission to call his comrades together, and build a hut during the night to receive his bride. The very next day he requests his mother to prepare a pot full of porridge, and then repairs to the dwelling—a hole six feet square, or perhaps a tent of branches—where the maiden of his choice, dressed in her sheepskin tunic, with a veil borrowed from a neighbor, is modestly crouching in a corner. He takes her by the hand and leads her to where his family is collected. The oldest man of the tribe is there by appointment, encouraged by a fee of a few handfuls of porridge, and hastily mutters a few words by way of blessings. This is the whole ceremony, if, indeed, the great feat that follows be not more worthy of that name; and thus the Ziganas continue from generation to generation. We are sorry to be obliged to add, that both women and men are, as a rule, exceedingly debauched.

ITALY.

FEDERMONT.

The Intendant-General of the province of Ivrea, in a proclamation dated from Aosta, 10th Dec., announces that by the bravery of the troops, the insurgents of the communes of Chauporice and Ponte Basso in the valley of Aosta, have been dispersed, and have laid down their arms. Upwards of two hundred have been made prisoners. The proclamation closes with the following words: "Inhabitants of the province of Ivrea. From the bottom of the valley of Aosta, I invite you with me to raise the national cry: 'The Constitution forever.' The King forever."

According to a letter in the *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa, the number of insurgents at Verres amounted to a thousand. They have occupied that place, and forced the authorities to yield obedience to them, threatening violence in case of resistance. They caused the arms of the national guard to be given up to them, tore down the flag of the constitution, and after subjecting it to all kinds of indignities, burnt it, crying, "Down with the constitution! The King forever!" They visited all the shops, and took what they could conveniently lay their hands on.

On the approach of the troops, they retired to Chaitillon, where the Syndic, the Intendant of Aosta, the judge and officer in command of the carabinieri went out to meet them, and furnished them with what they wanted, in order to prevent their sacking the town. They accepted, and promised to do no harm, but soon after respected nothing. At St. Vincent, the national guard was disarmed, and the diligence for Chaitillon was stopped. At Giombavai their number had swelled to two thousand. They took the road to Aosta, always pursued by the troops. Men were constantly joining them from the mountains until the troops dispersed them.

"The retrograde conspiracy," says the *Genoa Correspondent* of the 2d inst., has extensive ramifications. We have seen it at work at Alexandria where the Mayor was obliged to issue a proclamation, declaring that the government had no intention of increasing the duty on salt. At Casale, a popular demonstration took place on the 30th. A mob congregated under the windows of Deputy Meloni, crying "Down with him!" They then repaired to the house of M. Montiglio, who was his competitor at the last election, and gave him three cheers. No act of violence was committed. The instigators of these disturbances do not belong to the city.

ICE BRIDGE AT NIAGARA FALLS.—The *Rochester American*, describing the ice bridge, which now exists across Niagara river, just below the American Fall, at the foot of the ferry stair-case, says:

"It is formed of cakes of ice heaped up together in every possible shape, and rises some twenty feet above the water. It is already used as a highway for foot passengers between the States and Canada. In front of the American Falls the ice is piled up in huge masses, and covers the rocks and banks in every fantastic form, presenting in the sun-light the most magnificent appearance. Luna Island is one great plain of ice, and all the banks of the river are sheathed with the frozen spray. The Canada side and Table Rock are loaded with ice, and it is from this point that the splendid crystal panorama of the American side offers its glaring and sparkling front."

ALL IS VANITY.—Frederick: "There, now, how very provoking! I've lost the Prayer Book at home!"
Merrill: "Well, dear, never mind; but do tell me, is my bonnet all right?"
Punch.

MAMMOTH TREE OF CALIFORNIA.

(From the Transcript.)

Two regular live Yankees have just returned from California, and report that they have got the Big Tree on the way home. The Big Tree—the very largest known within the bounds of the modern El Dorado, and so far as has yet been discovered, the largest on the face of the earth, or that has ever grown. In their quiet manner they give a highly romantic account of a journey of some fifty miles into the interior, southerly from San Francisco, for the purpose, merely, of seeing this old massive log. No gold having been discovered in that direction, the face of the country was found unbroken, in its naturally beautifully undulating surface, heavily draped with wild oats, tall grasses, and brilliant colored flowers.

This mammoth tree was situated on the southwesterly slope of a hill, in a soil of fifteen feet deep. Its roots extended in all directions for more than fifty rods upon the hill side and downwards to the depth of the soil. The diameter at its base was twenty-two feet, and the circumference sixty-six—a single tree, round and symmetrical, for three hundred and twenty-five feet up to its top, where a few huge branches have spread their evergreen fringes to the sunshine and the storms of years uncountable. From an actual estimate of its diurnal layers it is more than three thousand years since this mammoth cedar was a sapling in its teens. Then for a large space on the outer surface next to the bark, the layers of yearly growth are so thin as to render them uncountable. Here, then, is a specimen of antiquity which carries us back beyond the usual objects and events referred to in the illustration of old things. All the stirring events in the histories of men and nations during the Christian era are but as yesterday, and we are compelled to go back to the time of Noah's navigation, or the laying of the foundations of the great pyramid. For in those days, almost the beginning of earthly events, must the seed have sprung from which grew this tree.

There is an object hereabout to which it can be compared but Bunker Hill Monument; and here we will follow our brave of Jonathans in their calculations. Supposing it to be sound, after taking its attitude, they calculate there are 300 cords of wood. If it could be shaved into shingles, there would be 300,000, and 100 cords left in the limbs and chips. Its entire weight could not be less than 500 tons. Becoming amazed at their extent of arithmetical knowledge, and wonder-struck at the results of these calculations upon the object before them, they retired for refreshment and rest. Their next calculation was a matter of far more serious nature. It was upon the question, "Whether it was possible to move a piece of the damped old thing home to Boston?" But here we suggested "emulid art"—why not let the tree remain and come to its full growth—or grow on till the day of judgment, as it has stood out so good a portion of the time? "Yes," they replied, "but don't you see—somebody else would have been hacking upon the old timber if we hadn't." "Barnum had already sent a man after the same thing. But Barnum was a little too late that time." They came to the conclusion that it was possible to get a large section of the tree off and transport it to the States. How near a shrewd Yankee can come upon the verge of an impossibility and succeed, will be found in the account here given of their heroic labors performed in this operation.

After the incessant labor of four men for one week, chopping at the base, they succeeded in cutting as far into the trunk as enormous weight broke off some twelve or fifteen feet of solid wood, and it fell with a shock as if an earthquake had moved the hill. About 200 feet from the ground, where it measured twelve feet in diameter, it was broken off by the fall as short as a pipe stem. The next thing to be done was to cut off a section, and this required two entire chopplings thro' the tree. After 125 days' labor, a section of ten feet was separated, square at both ends, with the bark entirely perfect. But at this point, after such indefatigable toil, away in a wilderness infested with wild birds and grizzly bears, and Indians prowling in the neighborhood—they were about to give up in despair of accomplishing their design for how were they now to transport that mass of wood, weighing some 20 or 30 tons? By any available means at hand it was as immovable as the hill where it laid. They however procured a pump, auger, bored through the center, then dug away the earth at one end, tipped the thing up and built a fire underneath, which they kept burning for several weeks. The auger hole made a good chimney, which was enlarged by the action of the fire, until the men could work inside with their axes. In this manner it was excavated to within about two feet of the outer surface. It was afterwards moved down the hill for more than a mile by rollers, then placed upon Mexican adobe, and drawn by 20 oxen, eighteen miles to Marinus, and then shipped to San Francisco.

It was not until the tree was safely landed on California wharf that they were fully conscious of the labors performed, or of the great curiosity in their possession. The whole city of men, women and children, flocked to see the sign of the tree that had been growing almost since the world was made. One hundred men could easily stand within the hollow at the same time, and a six-foot man rode a full-sized horse through without touching his hat to the upper surface.

Finally the tree was shipped on the deck of ship *Messenger*, Capt. Frank Smith, Nov. 23, 1853, for New York, where it is now daily expected to arrive. If the ship meets with no disaster, the curious articles of antiquity will have an opportunity to examine what may truly be considered one of the greatest curiosities in the world.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AND MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

LOUIS ESCAPE.

The telegraph has already stated the attempted suicide of a young lady by jumping from the suspension bridge at Wheeling, and her miraculous escape from death. The *Wheeling Intelligencer*, of Thursday, furnishes the following details of the affair:

Yesterday morning about 10 o'clock, a young lady approached the Suspension Bridge from this side, and when asked for her toll, inquired of the gate keeper how much it was, and when told the price to the island, replied that she did not think she was going that far, and said she ought to go for half price as she was only going to the middle of the bridge. He took the toll she offered, and she proceeded on her way. When she reached the place where the iron cables touch the railing, at nearly the highest part of the bridge, Mr. George Downey, the toll collector, observed her climbing on the railing and removing her bonnet and shawl.

He ran to her only in time to catch the mantle which she wore, when she broke from his grasp and leaped to the stream below, a distance, even at the present high stage of water, of not less than seventy-eight feet. The current was full of floating ice, and her destruction seemed inevitable: she sank—then rose—then plunged violently in the swollen torrent—sank again, rose once more, and then floated onward amid the torrent of ice with nothing but her head and hand occasionally visible. Several men in a skiff put out from some boat lying at the wharf, the *Fort Pitt*, we believe, followed her, gave her up as lost several times, but each time renewed the chase and finally kept her alive but insensible, after she had been in the water nearly half an hour! Restoratives were speedily applied and she was removed to the house of friends, where we understand she is gradually recovering from injuries sustained from the ice and cold.

The leap was one of the most desperate, and the escape from instant death, the most miraculous we have ever recorded or ever seen recorded. Had it been a man, he would doubtless have gone down head foremost, struck the water with his head and never rose again. Her clothes no doubt kept her head uppermost as she was falling, and buoyed her up when she got in the stream.

The heroine of this adventure is a young unmarried lady, whose name we omit at the solicitation of her friends and who has lived here for some five years, supporting herself by her work as a seamstress. "Those with whom she has resided give her an irreproachable character. The common report attributes the affair to a disappointment in love matters, about which we know nothing. A young man of this city had been paying attention to her, but it is said he had withdrawn his attentions lately. He received a note from her yesterday morning through the Post Office. He called upon us yesterday and showed us the note, which indicates nothing of any improper intimacy between them, and reveals nothing of her desperate purpose. It discloses all responsibility of the affair."

ANOTHER KOSZTA CASE.

The Vienna correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says that another Koszta case, demanding the interference of the Government, according to the principles enunciated in Mr. May's letter, has lately occurred in Austria. If the facts are as stated, some Government action ought to be taken in the premises. He says:

In 1848, Simon Tadjing, the person in question, obtained permission of the authorities of Prague to travel one year in Germany, France and England. While absent from the Austrian dominions, he took occasion to visit the United States, where he soon after married and settled as a shoemaker in the State of New Jersey. He took the necessary steps to become an American citizen, and a full passport was given him in the United States, the present year for the worthy purpose of conveying to the United States a poor widow, with several children. On reaching Prague his passport was taken from him by the police authorities, and has since been withheld on the ground of his still being an Austrian citizen. Not only this—he is also threatened with severe punishment for having left his country without permission. He, of course, at once laid his case before Mr. Jackson, an American Minister at Vienna. Tadjing is charged with no political offense, but, on the other hand, appears to be a simple, unassuming mechanic, whose crime is so undefined as to have found its way only among the vagaries of European despotism. Mr. Jackson brought the affair before the Austrian Government, and requested Tadjing's passport should be restored and himself permitted to return to his suffering family. The ground of humanity was pleaded. The unassuming character of the man, the smallness of the offense committed, the fact that Tadjing is a poor man, that his family is suffering from his absence, and especially the pressing necessities of his visit to Prague, were all presented to their consideration. But Austrian diplomacy has a brain of lead, a heart of stone, and all considerations of the above character are with them perfectly lost.

COVER BOSCO.—The Russian Minister, Count Borsico, who has just died at Washington, was the oldest member of the diplomatic